

Remarks

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 28, 2001. The Office Action restricts the claims into the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-27 and 60-66

Group II: Claims 28-39 and 67-71

Group III: Claims 40-59

Applicants elect Group II without traverse. If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at the number set forth below.

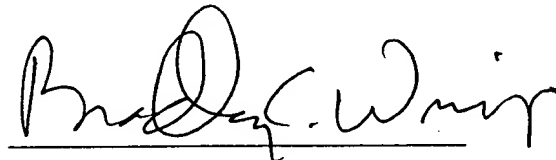
Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

²⁸
Date: January 24, 2002

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